©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at

Nachr. entomol. Ver. Apollo, Frankfurt, N.F. **12** *(3): 211–213 – Dezember 1991* 211
ISSN 0723-9912

Note on a little known Chinese lycaenid: *Lycaena svenhedini* (NORDSTRÖM)

by

GIAN C. BOZANO

In 1935 F. NORDSTRÖM described *Chrysophanus svenhedini* from 6 specimens brought back to Sweden by a Swedish-Chinese zoological expedition in the Gansu and Sichuan regions. The specimens were collected on June 13 in South Gansu. The only illustration provided was the black and white photograph of a male.

It seems that after the original description *Lycaena svenhedini* has no longer been mentioned or illustrated and, having re-discovered it, I think it may be of some interest to illustrate the male genitalia and, in colour, both the male and female.

On August 10, 1990, returning from an expedition in the Tibetan Qinghai region, together with six friends lepidopterists, I had the opportunity to spend two hours collecting at Shi-Fe-Ngou, just a few kilometers southwest of Lanzhou, the Gansu capital. The locality that, according to our driver, had just been opened to the public, is a rather narrow valley with steep and woody slopes and small cultivated fields at the bottom. The altitude is about 1900 meters.

The list of the species that we found there will possibly be the subject of a separate document on the overall results of the expedition. Among them we found some *Lycaena svenhedini*. Later in the same year I obtained 3 more specimens taken at Hua Shan, East Shaanxi, on July 28 by a Czechoslovakian entomologist.

Received: 2/ii/1991

©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at

As noted by NORDSTRÖM, *Lycaena svenhedini* resembles a large *Lycaena phlaeas*. The most striking features are (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2): the regular row of premarginal black spots on the upper side of the forewing, a complete series of black spots on the underside and the basal violet suffusion on the upper side. The female is larger than the male and lacks the violet suffusion. The male genitalia (Fig. 3) show a resemblance to *Lycaena helle* rather than to *Lycaena phlaeas*.

The few specimens that we have collected and those from Shaanxi region are in good conditions; this fact suggests that *Lycaena svenhedini* either is bivoltin or has a very prolongate emergence.

I would like to thank Dr. E. GALLO and Prof. V. SBORDONI who have kindly loaned their specimens to me for the purpose of preparing this note.

References

BRIDGES, C. A. (1988): Catalogue of Lycaenidae & Riodinidae. – (the author).

HIGGINS, L. G. (1975): The classification of European Butterflies. – 320 pp., London (Collins).

NORDSTRÖM, F. (1935): Schwedisch-chinesische wissenschaftliche Expedition nach den nordwestlichen Provinzen Chinas. 21., Lepidoptera 1. Diurna 2. Sphinges. – Ark. Zool. **27 A** (7): 1–37.

Address of the author:

Gian C. BOZANO, Viale Romagna 76, I-20133 Milano, Italy

Opposite page **Colour Figures:** *Lycaena svenhedini*. Top: male **(Fig. 1)**, centre: female **(Fig. 2)** (left upperside, right underside). – Bottom: male genitalia **(Fig. 3)**.

©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at